

Stoughton Farmstead
On North Branch of Black River,
about 1-3/4 miles northeast of Perkinsville
Perkinsville Vicinity, Town of Weathersfield
Windsor County
Vermont

HABS No. VT-59

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Moved 1959 to State Route 131, about 2 miles
east of Amsden, Town of Weathersfield,
Windsor County, Vermont

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

STOUGHTON FARMSTEAD

Location: On North Branch of Black River, about 1-3/4 miles northeast of Perkinsville, Perkinsville Vicinity, Town of Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont
[Moved in 1959 to State Route 131, about 2 miles east of Amsden, Town of Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont]

Present Owner: John Stoughton, 330 Elm Avenue, Burlington, New Jersey

Present Use: Unused

Brief Statement of Significance: Built in 1788, the small frame house on this farm is typical of the period, but with an unusual cellar that was exposed on one side.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The house and farm were built by Nathaniel Stoughton, who came to Weathersfield, Vermont, from Windsor, Connecticut, in 1780. He occupied a cabin until the present house was built in 1788. Nathaniel Stoughton died in 1815, and the house and farm have remained the property of his descendants.
2. Date of erection: 1788.
3. Notes on alterations: The large central chimney at the house was removed after c. 1900 to give added space for closets and a bathroom. The front windows have been replaced with slightly larger ones that cut into the wainscot in the two front rooms, and the small gable windows have been removed. The house was moved to its present site in the Fall of 1959, because of the Springfield Dam project on the Black River. The farm was originally located northeast of Perkinsville about 1-3/4 miles, on the North Branch of the Black River, near the Stoughton Bridge, Perkinsville Vicinity, Town of Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont. The original barn was moved with the house to the present site; the covered Stoughton Bridge was moved to a brook on the property of Andrew Titcomb, Route 106, just south of Perkinsville, Town of Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont. The general layout of the house, the detail, and the interior paneling remain essentially unchanged from their original form.
4. Important old views and references: A copy of a photograph taken c. 1900 is included in this photo-data book. This photograph shows the house essentially in the present form but with the original central chimney still in place.

Hamilton Child, Gazetteer and Business Directory of Windsor County, Vermont (Syracuse, New York: Hamilton Child, 1884), page 246.

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B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

- a. Ethel McLaughlin Turner, The English Ancestry of Thomas Stoughton (Madison, Wisconsin: 1958).
- b. The owner also suggests that Mr. and Mrs. Paul Boynton Turner, 1118 Waban Hill, Madison 5, Wisconsin, might have additional information on the history of the house.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby and Henry C. Edwards
Architects, National Park Service
September 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This small frame house is a typical representative of the period and the area in its plan and interior finish. Before being moved, it had an unusual cellar that was exposed on one side, apparently by carefully planned grading of the earth around the building. An entrance from the outside led into the cellar, which had a large fireplace fitted for cooking and apparently served as a summer kitchen.
2. Condition of fabric: Before being moved, though the frame was sound, the house was extremely dirty and in dilapidated condition with such things as loose clapboards, broken windows, and leaking plumbing. Nothing has been done to the house since being moved, although the owner is trying to raise money to restore it.

B. Technical Description of the Exterior:

1. Orientation and over-all dimensions: The main entrance faces east; the rear entrance faces west toward the barn, the farm yard and the road. The house is rectangular, 30' by 39', one-and-a-half stories high, plus the cellar.
2. Foundations: Random field stone.
3. Wall construction: Hewn timber frame, clapboards.
4. Chimneys: Original center chimney replaced by one small brick chimney.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: East and west entrances have paneled, lighted doors that are old but do not appear to be original. The doors are set in unrelieved frames, the east entrance has a simple, three-light transom. The cellar door on the south side is of plank construction and set in an unrelieved frame.

- b. Windows: The two-over-two-light double-hung windows, which are not original, were installed after the old photograph which is included in this photo-data book was taken c. 1900.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gabled roof; 9 over 12 pitch.
Asphalt shingles.
- b. Eaves: Boxed eaves with simple moulded trim project only slightly.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: Central chimney type plan with chimney removed to make room for later closets and bathroom. Cellar has extra kitchen as noted above under Part II, A., 1. of this report. Part of the attic is finished as a bedroom.
- 2. Stairways: Simple, enclosed stairways, straight run, lead from main floor kitchen to cellar and attic.
- 3. Flooring: Dirt and brick floors in the original cellar; random-width wood floors on main floor and attic.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls and ceilings on main floor, with paneling on old fireplace walls and paneled wainscot in the two front parlors, the northeast and southeast rooms. Stairway walls are vertical boards.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Mostly four-paneled doors in moulded frames.
- 6. Trim: Moulded wood trim, small scale dentil course at the top of the paneled walls in the parlors, beaded corners on the timber frame where it projects within the surface of the walls.
- 7. Hardware: Mostly original wrought-iron hardware.
- 8. Lighting: Electric.
- 9. Heating: Central; three original fireplaces on main floor removed; cellar fireplace not operating.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting: Before being moved, the house was situated in a small rural valley between wooded hills. The house was situated on a small mound that appeared to have been deliberately graded to allow the cellar entrance as noted above under Part II, A., 1. of this report.

2. Outbuildings: In the original setting, a small open shed adjoined the house at the northwest; an ell-shaped barn and a smaller shed were situated on the west side of the house.
3. Walks: Dirt.
4. Landscaping: The area around the house at the original site was informally landscaped with a sugar orchard at one side, a few trees, and a heavily overgrown lawn used as pasturage.

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